



[6450-01-P]

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[FE Docket No. 15-171-LNG]

Sabine Pass Liquefaction, LLC; Application for Blanket Authorization to Export Liquefied Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Nations on a Short-Term Basis

AGENCY: Office of Fossil Energy, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: The Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) gives notice of receipt of an application (Application), filed on November 6, 2015, by Sabine Pass Liquefaction, LLC (Sabine Pass), requesting blanket authorization to export liquefied natural gas (LNG) in an amount up to the equivalent of 600 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas on a cumulative basis over a two-year period commencing on the earlier of the date of first short-term export or January 15, 2016. The LNG would be exported from the Sabine Pass Liquefaction Project (Liquefaction Project) located in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, to any country with the capacity to import LNG via ocean-going carrier and with which trade is not prohibited by U.S. law or policy. To date, Sabine Pass has been granted long-term, multi-contract authorization under DOE/FE Order No. 2961-A to export LNG in a volume equivalent to 803 Bcf per year of natural gas from the Liquefaction Project to non-FTA countries, for a 20-year term.¹ Sabine Pass states that, in anticipation of the start of liquefaction operations at the Liquefaction Project, it

¹ See App. at 2-3 & n.6 (describing the various DOE/FE authorizations granted for the first four liquefaction trains comprising Stages 1 and 2 of the Liquefaction Project). In addition, on April 20, 2015, Sabine Pass submitted an application to DOE/FE requesting long-term, multi-contract authorization to export up to the equivalent of an additional 203 Bcf per year of natural gas from the Liquefaction Project to non-FTA countries for a 20-year term. That application is currently pending in FE Docket No. 15-63-LNG. See *id.* at 3 & n.8.

requests this blanket authorization to engage in short-term exports of LNG produced both prior to commercial operations as well as subsequent to commercial operations if and when appropriate market opportunities arise. According to Sabine Pass, the requested blanket authorization will provide enhanced operational flexibility and the ability to export produced LNG cargoes that may be rejected by customers under long-term contracts. Sabine Pass seeks to export this LNG on its own behalf and as agent for other parties who will hold title to the LNG at the time of export. The Application was filed under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA).

Additional details can be found in Sabine Pass's Application, posted on the DOE/FE website at: <http://energy.gov/fe/downloads/sabine-pass-liquefaction-llc-fe-dkt-no-15-171-lng>

Protests, motions to intervene, notices of intervention, and written comments are invited.

DATES: Protests, motions to intervene or notices of intervention, as applicable, requests for additional procedures, and written comments are to be filed using procedures detailed in the

Public Comment Procedures section no later than 4:30 p.m., Eastern time, **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

ADDRESSES:

Electronic Filing by email:
fergas@hq.doe.gov

Regular Mail
U.S. Department of Energy (FE-34)
Office of Regulation and International Engagement
Office of Fossil Energy
P.O. Box 44375
Washington, DC 20026-4375

Hand Delivery or Private Delivery Services (e.g., FedEx, UPS, etc.)
U.S. Department of Energy (FE-34)
Office of Regulation and International Engagement
Office of Fossil Energy
Forrestal Building, Room 3E-042
1000 Independence Avenue, SW.,

Washington, DC 20585

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Larine Moore or Ben Nussdorf
U.S. Department of Energy (FE-34)
Office of Regulation and International Engagement
Office of Fossil Energy
Forrestal Building, Room 3E-042
1000 Independence Avenue, SW.,
Washington, DC 20585
(202) 586-9478; (202) 586-7893

Cassandra Bernstein
U.S. Department of Energy (GC-76)
Office of the Assistant General Counsel for
Electricity and Fossil Energy
Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Avenue, SW.,
Washington, DC 20585
(202) 586-9793

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

DOE/FE Evaluation

The Application will be reviewed pursuant to section 3 of the NGA, as amended, and the authority contained in DOE Delegation Order No. 00-002.00N (July 11, 2013) and DOE Redefinition Order No. 00-006.02 (Nov. 17, 2014). In reviewing this Application, DOE will consider domestic need for the natural gas, as well as any other issues determined to be appropriate, including whether the arrangement is consistent with DOE's policy of promoting competition in the marketplace by allowing commercial parties to freely negotiate their own trade arrangements. Additionally, DOE will consider the following environmental documents:

- *Addendum to Environmental Review Documents Concerning Exports of Natural Gas From the United States*, 79 FR 48132 (Aug. 15, 2014);² and

² The Addendum and related documents are available at: <http://energy.gov/fe/draft-addendum-environmental-review-documents-concerning-exports-natural-gas-united-states>.

- *Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Perspective on Exporting Liquefied Natural Gas From the United States*, 79 FR 32260 (June 4, 2014).³

Parties that may oppose this Application should comment in their responses on these issues.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. § 4321 *et seq.*, requires DOE to give appropriate consideration to the environmental effects of its proposed decisions. Sabine Pass states that no changes to the Liquefaction Project facilities would be required for the short-term exports requested in the Application. No final decision will be issued in this proceeding until DOE has met its environmental responsibilities.

Interested persons will be provided 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice in which to submit comments, protests, motions to intervene, notices of intervention, or motions for additional procedures.

Public Comment Procedures

In response to this Notice, any person may file a protest, comments, or a motion to intervene or notice of intervention, as applicable. Interested parties will be provided 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice in which to submit comments, protests, motions to intervene, or notices of intervention.

Any person wishing to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene or notice of intervention. The filing of comments or a protest with respect to the Application will not serve to make the commenter or protestant a party to the proceeding, although protests and comments received from persons who are not parties will be considered in determining the appropriate action to be taken on the Application. All protests, comments, motions to intervene, or notices of intervention must meet the requirements specified by the regulations in 10 CFR Part 590.

³ The Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Report is available at: <http://energy.gov/fe/life-cycle-greenhouse-gas-perspective-exporting-liquefied-natural-gas-united-states>.

Filings may be submitted using one of the following methods: (1) e-mailing the filing to fergas@hq.doe.gov, with FE Docket No. 15-171-LNG in the title line; (2) mailing an original and three paper copies of the filing to the Office of Regulation and International Engagement at the address listed in **ADDRESSES**; or (3) hand delivering an original and three paper copies of the filing to the Office of Regulation and International Engagement at the address listed in **ADDRESSES**. All filings must include a reference to FE Docket No. 15-171-LNG. PLEASE NOTE: If submitting a filing via email, please include all related documents and attachments (e.g., exhibits) in the original email correspondence. Please do not include any active hyperlinks or password protection in any of the documents or attachments related to the filing. All electronic filings submitted to DOE must follow these guidelines to ensure that all documents are filed in a timely manner. Any hardcopy filing submitted greater in length than 50 pages must also include, at the time of the filing, a digital copy on disk of the entire submission.

A decisional record on the Application will be developed through responses to this notice by parties, including the parties' written comments and replies thereto. Additional procedures will be used as necessary to achieve a complete understanding of the facts and issues. If an additional procedure is scheduled, notice will be provided to all parties. If no party requests additional procedures, a final Opinion and Order may be issued based on the official record, including the Application and responses filed by parties pursuant to this notice, in accordance with 10 CFR 590.316.

The Application is available for inspection and copying in the Office of Regulation and International Engagement docket room, Room 3E-042, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585. The docket room is open between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The Application and any filed protests,

motions to intervene or notice of interventions, and comments will also be available electronically by going to the following DOE/FE Web address:

<http://www.fe.doe.gov/programs/gasregulation/index.html>.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on November 17, 2015.

John A. Anderson

Director, Office of Regulation and International Engagement
Office of Oil and Natural Gas

[FR Doc. 2015-29791 Filed: 11/20/2015 8:45 am; Publication Date: 11/23/2015]